

REMARKS

The present invention is a disk drive actuator latching mechanism that distinguishes the prior art with at least four elements, including (1) the use of only one latching mechanism, (2) the latching mechanism is unable to contact the actuator while the head is in the read/write zone, (3) the latch on the actuator is located on only one of the coil arms of the actuator, and (4) the latch on the actuator has a narrow elongate shape with a recess formed therein.

In contrast, every embodiment of the cited prior art reference to *Khanna* discloses two latching mechanisms. Compare Figures 2, 3, and 5. This tandem design (see title) is a critical design feature for *Khanna* and requires "a pair of counter imbalanced inertia locks." Col. 2, line 30; col. 4, lines 60-64. Regarding Applicant's element (2) above, *Khanna's* latch 32b is able to engage tab 36a (Figure 2) when head 20 (Figure 1) rotates in direction T to position head 20 in a read/write position. This means that a shock event would cause the latch 32b to engage actuator 16 while it is reading/writing information to disk 14.

Regarding Applicant's element (3) above, *Khanna's* Figures 1 and 2 clearly show two tabs 36a, 36b formed on the back of arm 16. Figure 3 of *Khanna* only shows one tab 36a, but it too is located on the back of arm 16. Applicant's design (Figure 5) incorporates a lever 161 that extends from only one coil arm 16a, not the back of voice coil 15. Moreover, regarding Applicant's element (4) above, the shape of lever 161 is narrow and elongate and includes a recess formed therein. In contrast, *Khanna's* tabs 36a, 36b, are merely rectangular block-like features.

Applicant has amended the claims to incorporate one or more of the unique features of Applicant's invention. For example, Claim 1 now specifically requires the latching mechanism to be "unable to latch the moving member when the head is located at the read/write position."

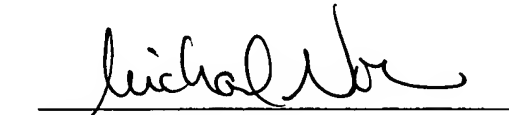
The latching mechanism "remain[s] separate from the moving member when the head is located at the read/write position." *Khanna's* Figure 1 clearly reveals that when its head 20 is initially positioned over disk 14 (i.e., in the read/write zone), tab 36a (Figure 2) rotates adjacent to latch 32b. At that moment, an external shock would cause latch 32b to engage tab 36a. Such contact cannot satisfy the new language of Claim 1.

Claim 2 is now specifically limited to "only one" inertial latching mechanism that operates in response to an external shock. Since each embodiment of *Khanna* necessarily uses two latches, Claim 2 is now in condition for allowance. Claim 3 describes the moving member (i.e., actuator) with "a pair of coil holding arms with a voice coil mounted therebetween, and the shape [i.e., lever] extends from only one of said pair of coil holding arms." *Khanna* only shows and describes tabs 36a, 36b on the back of coil 16.

Claim 4 describes the geometry of the lever or shape as "narrow and elongate and has a recess formed therein." *Khanna's* tabs 36a, 36b are short and stubby and certainly have no recesses formed in them. Finally, independent Claim 6 incorporates all four of Applicant's distinguishing elements, while Claims 9 and 11-14 essentially track the language of Claims 1-5 in different combinations.

It is respectfully submitted that the claims are in condition for allowance and favorable action is requested. No fee for an extension of time or other fees are believed to be required. However, in the event that one or more fees are required, please charge them to **Hitachi Global Storage Technologies' Deposit Account Number 50-2587**.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael E. Noe, Jr.
Reg. No. 44,975
BRACEWELL & GIULIANI, LLP
P.O. Box 61389
Houston, Texas 77208-1389
(512) 542-2135

ATTORNEY FOR APPLICANTS